

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
JUNE 16, 2020**

ITEM 4

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND/OR AMEND A FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 319 GRANT AND TO EXECUTE AND AMEND CONTRACTS AND GRANTS TO SUPPORT THE NONPOINT SOURCE PROGRAM.

DISCUSSION

Federal Clean Water Act section 319(h) (CWA 319) provides grants to states to implement Nonpoint Source (NPS) Programs. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has notified the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) that a federal fiscal year (FFY) 2020 CWA 319 grant award of up to \$8,800,000 will be available to California to implement the 2014-2020 NPS Program Plan. Approximately half, or \$4,400,000 of the available funds will be used to implement NPS projects for local projects and the remaining half to support the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) and State Water Board NPS program staff.

The FFY 2020 CWA 319 grant monies compose the 2020 NPS Program grant funds. The NPS Program grant funds are used for projects that reduce measurable nonpoint source pollutant loads. On September 26, 2019, a solicitation notice for the 2020 NPS Program grant funds was released. A technical Review Panel composed of staff from the State Water Board and Regional Water Boards reviewed and scored project proposals. Applicants with the highest-ranking proposals were selected and recommended for funding. The 2020 Fundable Project List was presented to and approved by the State Water Board Executive Director on May 4, 2020.

This item addresses the Human Right to Water (AB 685 in 2012) and the Climate Change Resolution (Resolution No. 2017-0012) by requiring project applicants to demonstrate how their projects mitigate and/or are resilient to climate change, and how their projects address environmental justice and human right to water.

POLICY ISSUE

None.

FISCAL IMPACT

The anticipated NPS Program grant funds are adequate to accommodate the anticipated level of funding.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

The anticipated NPS Program grant funds are adequate to accommodate the anticipated level of funding.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board should:

1. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to apply for, accept, and amend, as necessary, the 2020 CWA 319 grant in an amount of up to \$8,800,000 for support of the 2014-2020 NPS Program Plan.
2. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to negotiate and approve program workplans.
3. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to issue contracts, grants, and amendments to implement the project proposals listed on the 2020 NPS Fundable Project List.
4. Authorize the Executive Director or designee to modify the 2020 NPS Fundable Project List during the liquidation period of the 2020 CWA 319 grant, including adding projects consistent with NPS Program goals.